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Homosexual Denied Top-Secret Rating

Engineer Settles Security Clearance Suit With CIA

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By JAMES RAINEY, *Times Staff Writer*

John Green, the aerospace engineer who lost his Central Intelligence Agency security clearance because he is a homosexual, has reached an out-of-court settlement in a \$1-million lawsuit that he filed against the agency last year.

The terms of the settlement are being kept secret by order of U.S. District Judge Mariana R. Pfaezler. She dismissed the suit with the agreement of both parties on Friday, Green's lawyer, John McDermott, said Wednesday.

Happy With Settlement

Green refused to reveal if his clearance for top-secret projects has been restored, and a CIA spokesperson declined to say whether the settlement will lead to a new policy on security clearances for homosexuals.

"I'm happy with the settlement," Green said from his office at TRW Inc. in Redondo Beach on Wednesday. "I've been working on this for three years since I was first suspended access."

Green, 51, had worked on classified projects for TRW for 10 years when, in 1981, he lost his "sensitive compartmented information" clearance, a high-level security authorization for government projects. The engineer said he was less valuable without the clearances and was forced to accept a lower-level job.

He sued for invasion of privacy

and loss of his right to due process and representation by legal counsel. Gay rights groups hoped the suit would result in the overturn of policies prohibiting homosexuals from holding sensitive security clearances.

Green said that outside of the settlement, his career at TRW has been back on track since he began work three months ago on the MILSTAR communications satellite. A Department of Defense security clearance that he first earned in 1967 has reinstated his salary and allows Green to work on the satellite, which he said will allow someone in "a Jeep in Africa to pick up a phone and talk directly to the chief in the United States."

'Realistic Outlook'

He praised the Defense Department for having "a little more realistic outlook than some other people about the world."

"I believe that my growth potential has basically been reinstated," he said. "The nicest thing they (TRW) said to me is that they value me as an important employee."

The CIA policy blocking Green's clearance said that homosexuals can be subjected to blackmail by foreign agents. Green contended all along that he did not hide his homosexuality and was not subject to coercion.